

## **Acton Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes for 5/9/11**

**Present:** Barbara Tallone, Chair; Charlie Aaronson, Vice Chair; Barbara Willson, Secretary Pro-tem; Sharon Mercurio, Director; Ann Corcoran; Pat Ellis; Paul Turner; Mike Gowing, Liaison Board of Selectmen; Norma Wu, Liaison Friends of the COA; Paulina Knibbe, visitor; Dudley Palmer, visitor; Jim Snyder-Grant, visitor.

**Absent:** Stephen Baran; Jim Papachristos; Sally Thompson; Sgt. Ray Grey, Liaison Police Department.

### **Call To Order: Barbara Tallone**

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Tallone at 3:47 on 5/9/2011 at the Senior Center.

### **Items Distributed at meeting or available electronically:**

Agenda for May COA meeting

Minutes of the April COA Board meeting

Director's Report

Acton 2020 Revised Goals and Objectives –Final Draft

Senior Center Attendance at Programs: FY 2002—FY 2010

### **Review of the Minutes of April**

The minutes of the April meeting were accepted by a vote of 4 and 1 abstention with the following amendments: 1) Under Director's Report-**30% of residents at Windsor Green are Asian** and borrow smaller vehicles through **LRTA** 2) bottom of page 2 **Lyme Disease**

### **Director Report: Sharon Mercurio**

Sharon distributed her report in 3 sections: meetings, the building, and upcoming programs. Following meetings with appropriate town officials Sharon held an Alzheimer's training for the staff, developed the job description to post for an Outreach Worker to replace Carol Steiner, taped a program for "Older and Loving It", and requested a Senior Center sign. Sharon met with various department heads to discuss a new Senior Center.

The building was scheduled for evening use 5 times. Comcast is working on the telephone difficulty and Mike Gowing noted that a Verizon fiber drop will be forthcoming to address ongoing problems. Dean Charter will be replacing the roof and storage shed. Directional signs have been placed at Audubon St. and High St. and High St. and Main St.

Future programs include Acton Nursing Service will cook lunch on May 10-volunteers are needed.

Sharon also distributed a chart demonstrating the increased use of the Senior Center over the past 9 years.

Discussion ensued regarding the effort to inform the public of a need for a larger/better senior center. Sharon will direct the effort as noted in the April minutes. The steering committee will meet 2-3 times to set goals, review the past work, update facts and develop a proposal for Board of Selectmen review.

**Vice Chair Report: Charlie Aaronson**

A group is being assembled to determine the strategic plan for the COA. A mission statement with goals and objectives will be established. Members of the group will be 2 COA Board members and some staff. There will be 1-2 meetings per month this summer. Charlie asked interested members to contact him.

**Visitors from Acton 2020: Paulina Knibbe and Jim Snyder-Grant**

The Acton 2020 Task Force has established goals and objectives (distributed) following 3 years of brainstorming and input from citizens. The 3 top burning issues to date are housing, transportation and economics. A public meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. COA Board members and senior citizens are encouraged to attend and place comments on the Senior Center Comment Board or on the website of Acton 2020. The Task Force needs to be aware of the previous work done regarding senior/community centers in Acton.

**Liaison Board of Selectmen: Mike Gowing**

State funding for Dial-A-Ride has stopped at \$118,000. The Town of Acton can only fund it to the end of this fiscal year. Testimony is being given supporting "home rule petition" to allow the train station parking money to be used. Selectmen are also seeking grant money.

**Liaison Friends of COA: Norma Wu**

Planning for the November 5, 2011 Holiday Fair continues.

**Liaison Minuteman Senior Services: Charlie Aaronson**

One million dollars has been restored in Protective Services as a result of extensive lobbying. Charlie encouraged members to advocate for Senior Services and will bring more details on method /contacts.

**New Business:**

**Officer Slate for 2011-12: Barbara Tallone**-the slate is complete with Barbara Tallone and Charlie Aaronson continuing as chair and vice chair respectively, Barbara Willson as secretary and Ann Corcoran as treasurer.

**Point of Order: Charlie Aaronson**-how do we know the length of our terms of appointment to the COA board? - we don't at this point in time.

**Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) Research Data Unit: Paul Turner**-a survey form to towns and their COAs as well as focus groups are planned to determine unmet needs. Concerns of elders in Acton should be sought for the EOEA work as well as Acton

2020. Possible ways to get input include the COA newsletter, the informal census for changing demographics.

**Adjournment-Next Meeting: Barbara Tallone**

The meeting adjourned at 5:02pm.

The next meeting will occur at 3:45pm on June 20, 2011 at the Acton Senior Center.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Barbara Willson, Secretary Pro-Tem**